

# INCIDENTS AT UNITED STATES-MEXICAN BORDER SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. BILBRAY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of representing the 49th District of California. I also happen to have the privilege of living in the southwestern corner of the United States, where the Pacific Ocean meets the Mexican border. Sad to say, I also happen to have to represent an area that is severely impacted by intrusion and incursions across the Mexican border, not only of illegal immigration, but those individuals that cross the border to perpetuate crime and theft.

Mr. Speaker, the problem is not just those of unorganized crime or organized crime, but the problem is actually of those who are invested with government authority in Mexico, participating in a program of theft and violence against the people of the United States and those in San Diego County.

This photo here is a good example of the problem. This is a federal Mexican police officer driving a United States stolen car, without even having the wherewithal to bother to take off the California license plate that was on the vehicle. This vehicle is stolen, and identified by the Federal agents as stolen, and still is being used on official business for Mexico's Government.

Now, this week we had a situation that I think has to be brought to attention here in Washington, D.C. Mr. Speaker, this week two Mexican Federal agents crossed over into United States territory at the port of entry and actually stopped members of the United States, citizens of the United States, with AK-47 weapons in their possession and took those individuals, tried to forcibly take those individuals back into Mexico. Our United States agents confronted them with their weapons drawn, and for a moment there was actually a standoff between Mexican Federal agents on United States soil and American Federal agents on United States soil, point-blank range, ready to have a shoot-out.

Thank the powers above that we did not have a tragedy here. But we did have a situation that really calls for attention, and that is the fact that U.S. citizens were ready to be forced off of U.S. territory by agents of a foreign government, with weapons, I want to point out, that are illegal, not only to be imported into this country but to be possessed in this country, and that is a fully automatic AK-47.

Now, the Mexican Attorney General has said these people are going to be handled, and our Government has turned them back over to Federal agents to be taken to Mexico City. I certainly want everyone in this capital and in Mexico City to recognize this Member will be watching this quite closely, along with my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, not only did that happen, but in the City of Coronado an individual was arrested who has been identified as being a state police officer in the act of stealing a vehicle from my district to export it to Mexico. Now, let us be frank. A lot of us support free trade, but this is not the type of free trade I or my constituents support. If we are going to export cars, we would like it to be paid for first.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that an interesting side note to this incidence at the border is the car that was being driven by the Mexican officials who tried to take the American citizens across the border was not only found to have alcohol and drugs in it, but actually happened to be a stolen American car being driven in this act.

Now, there was other instances that have occurred, again this week, where there were two individuals who identified themselves as being dealers for officials on the Mexican side who were Government officials, and they were being paid and reimbursed for that theft.

Mr. Speaker, this is another incident of the situation that our border is out of control. I am not speaking against the people of Mexico or their Government, as much as the fact that there are problems within their Government that we must insist be corrected.

There have been successes. I would like to announce that the State of Baja California Sur has cooperated with the United States, identified 300 cars for investigation, and actually have identified that 75 of those 300 cars are in fact stolen American cars. They have cooperated with U.S. officials, and those cars are now going to be returned to their rightful owners.

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So there are successes, but the problem is that we have recognized a situation here to where we not only have crime crossing the border, but we have crime and violence crossing the border under the guise of government authority.

When my police officers in Coronado stop a car burglar and stop them in the act, I think it is quite inappropriate for my police officers to be greeted with a Mexican badge that says, you have to release me because I am a Mexican official.

Well, thank God our police officers do not play by that game. I will ask all my colleagues to pay attention to this issue, Mr. Speaker, and that this Nation pay attention. And I hope that we send a message to the White House and to Mexico City that these things have to stop now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SMITH of Michigan addressed the House. His remarks will appear

hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. KINGSTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

## MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address my colleagues in the House about the very important issues facing our senior citizens. This has been a very senior-sensitive 104th Congress, and I am proud to say that under the leadership of individuals on both sides of the aisle we have been able to accomplish some very good things.

Most notably, we have been able to raise the income eligibility for those seniors under 70 who want to have income above \$11,280 and earn it. Under our new legislation, they will be able to make up to \$30,000 a year over the next 5 years without it being deducted from the Social Security.

In addition, we have rolled back the very unfair 1993 Clinton tax increase on Social Security. In addition, we have instituted the \$500 elder care tax credit and the tax credit for the purchase of long-term care health insurance.

Now that brings us to the issue that was raised by my colleague and friend, Congressman BRYANT of Tennessee, about Medicare. We, in the Congress, want to do all we can to make sure we preserve and protect it for the 32 million of our Nation's senior citizens and 4 million persons with disabilities. But the Medicare spending, as you know, has gone up between 10 and 11 percent a year, whereas in the private sector health care is about a 4 to 5 percent increase a year, which tells many of us in Congress and those also watching to see what we will do that there really has been a great deal of fraud, abuse and waste in the system. If we do not take action to save Medicare, Mr. Speaker, by the year 2002, the Medicare portion of the FICA taxes for everyone will be raised 125 percent from the current level.

Seniors will face an increase in their annual premiums. We can stop that by preserving, protecting and improving our Medicare by making sure we control the rate of growth and also look to innovations with possibilities of the medical savings accounts and with managed care.

Last year we have seen that the Social Security Medicare board of trustees projected that the part A of the trust fund, the hospital care portion, would go broke by 1996. The trustees, who included Labor Secretary Robert